your line of communication may be flooded with Cossacks: the army and the Emperor will reach Smolensk to-morrow, but worn out by a continuous march of 120 leagues. Take the offensive; the safety of the army depends on it; every day lost is a disaster. The cavalry is dismounted, the cold has killed our horses. March, that is the order of the Emperor, and of necessity.

9th, Smolensk

We must employ to-morrow in gelling the troops together, so that on the following day the corps can txj formed up to start on their march.

llth. Order for the corps of General Baraguey d'Hil-liers to be disbanded.

14th. I am having the fortifications of Smolensk blown up, and shall then start for Orcha.

(To Bcrthicr.) Write to the Duke of Klchingen that it is necessary for him to continue in command of the rearguard.

18th, Doubrovna:

I shall reach Qrcha to-morrow.

(To Maret.) Since my last letter to you our situation has become worse. Ice and frost of near zero (Fahr.) have killed off nearly all our horses, say 80,000. We have been compelled to burn nearly 800 pieces of artillery, and an immense quantity of transport wagons. The cold has greatly increased the number of stragglers, The Cossacks have turned to a'ccount our absolute want of cavalry and of artillery to harass u« and cut our communications, so that I am most anxious about Marshal Ney, who stayed behind with 3000 men to blow up Smolensk.

19th. My intention is to move on Minsk, and, after